

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE RURAL DISTRICT

IN THE

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector

for

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GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of the District	112,315 acres
Number of Parishes	.. .. .	50
Rateable Value 1/4/61	.. .. .	£257,546 0s. 0d.
Sum represented by a penny rate at 31/3/62	.. .. .	£1,034 8s. 3d.
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book	.. .. .	10,122
Estimated mid-year Home Population	.. .. .	29,880
Census Population 1961	.. .. .	29,327

The district, which is agricultural in character, extends from the parish of Gamlingay in the West to Carlton parish in the East, a distance of some 30 miles, and has a common boundary with parts of the counties of Huntingdon, Bedford, Hertford, Essex and Suffolk.

It is favourable to arable farming which varies with the location, from the market gardening district of the lower greensand outcrop in the North-West to the chalk marls around Melbourn and Meldreth which supports fruit growing, to the corn and sugar beet area of the chalk hills to the South and East.

Industries in the area are mostly connected either directly or indirectly with agriculture. There are exceptions however; Sawston has industries of a divergent nature and comparatively large numbers of workers are employed in leather and paper manufacture. There is every indication that this parish will become urbanized as fresh industries are established.

Birth Rate	16.5
(Corrected)	17.7
Death Rate	11.8
(Corrected)	9.8
Infant Mortality Rate	28.4
(Per thousand live births)	

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor C. Hagger
Vice-Chairman: Councillor E. Pepper
Councillors:

Andrews, H. B.	Malthouse, H. F.
Barnes, A.	May, S. W. H.
Binney, R. C. C. J.	Morley, E. W.
Bowen, Mrs. G.	Murfitt, F. W., J.P.
Bowers, C. H.	Nield, R. H.
Bullman, E. W., J.P.	Noble, J. W.
Chambers, F.	Parkinson, Mrs. G. B.
Chamberlain, J. J.	Randall, P., J.P.
Dyball, E. F.	Rogers, Mrs. H.
Ellis, J. L. W. (<i>From May</i>)	Saggers, A. C.
Fordham, G. R. B., J.P.	Taylor, S. A., J.P.
Gray, Miss L. M.	Thomson, D. W.
Greenwood, C. O.	Vinter, Mrs. M. M. K.
Horsford, F. W.	Webb, J. D.
Jackson, R. C.	Wiseman, E. J.
Lay, J. H., M.B.E., M.C.	

STAFF

<i>Medical Officer of Health:</i>	J. Drummond, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
<i>Senior Public Health Inspector:</i>	R. J. Hoyle, M.R.S.H.
<i>Additional Public Health Inspector:</i>	P. Cocks, M.R.S.H.
<i>Additional Public Health Inspector:</i>	P. Allston, M.R.S.H.
<i>Clerk:</i>	Mrs. N. E. Matthews.

To the Chairman and Members
of
South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1961 prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 3/62 dated 16th April, 1962.

Vital Statistics

During the last year the estimated population rose by 1,490, an increase of over 5%. This is the first substantial rise in population which has taken place in the area since 1954 and is the direct result of the greatly increased amount of development now taking place. As building land becomes more difficult to find in and near the city and industries are developed in the area, there is every prospect that this increase will continue in future years. There is a tendency for much of the development to take place in villages where a main sewer is now available and it is likely that this pattern will spread as more and more villages are sewered, particularly in those areas which are easily accessible to Cambridge or the industrial estates of north east Hertfordshire.

It will be noticed that there is a marked difference between the Registrar General's estimate of the population and the figure ascertained by the 1961 census. This is mainly due to the fact that the estimated figure is based on the results of the 1951 census and corrections have not yet been made to relate it directly to the more recent one. However, the difference does not detract from the value of the estimated figure as a means of comparison with the previous year.

Although there has been a fall in the birth rate until it is slightly below the national figure, the death rate remained substantially unchanged.

A figure which occasions some concern, however, is the infant mortality rate which has risen to 28.4 per thousand. This is substantially above the national rate of 21.4 and is even more surprising when viewed against the figure of 9.8 per thousand births in 1959 and 12.3 in 1960. Analysis of the 14 deaths which constitute this rate revealed no specific factors which could account for this rise. As one would expect, the majority of these infant deaths (11 in number) occurred within the first month of life and prematurity was the cause in a substantial number of these. There is nothing to suggest that thalidomide was concerned in any of these cases. Indeed, information obtained from the major chemists in the county suggests that the drug was rarely used by any practitioners in the area. Such unaccountable rises in the infant mortality rate have occurred before and may be simple statistical variations. However, the position will have to be closely watched in future years.

Infectious Diseases

The rise in the total number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was occasioned mainly by the increase in measles notifications. Although these never reached the record levels of the 1959 epidemic, when compared with the 114 cases notified in the previous year it can be seen that the traditional biennial pattern of measles epidemics continues.

Only 4 cases of dysentery and 5 of food poisoning were notified, a substantial decrease on the figures of last year. These occurred as sporadic cases and although investigations were vigorously pursued in all cases, in only a few instances was it possible to find the infecting source.

Perhaps the most interesting outbreak from the epidemiological point of view was the occurrence of an outbreak of undulant fever which affected people living in this district and the neighbouring district of Chesterton. Four cases were discovered in this area and all were associated with the consumption of unpasteurised tuberculin tested milk infected with the organism *Brucella Abortus* supplied by a milkman in the neighbouring district but produced by a farmer in this district. Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations a diversion order was made requiring the pasteurising of all infected milk and there have been no subsequent cases. Of particular interest was the fact that cases occurred in all the families which were receiving this infected milk although not every member of the family showed clinical symptoms. This high degree of infectivity is greater than that which is usually associated with the disease. One difficulty in investigating outbreaks or ascertaining the incidence is the lack of specificity in the symptoms in the human infection and an indefinite incubation period so

that diagnosis is often made in retrospect. Although it is known that the infecting organism is widespread amongst cattle, where it causes contagious abortion, little accurate knowledge is available about the extent of human infection at the present time. However, as the organisms are completely destroyed by efficient pasteurisation and fewer people consume non-heat treated milk, it is to be anticipated that the true incidence of undulant fever will fall.

Again it is with great satisfaction that I am able to report that no cases of poliomyelitis occurred during the year in the district.

The steady decrease in the incidence of tuberculosis, respiratory and non-respiratory, continued and although this disease is by no means defeated it has ceased to inspire the fear that it did to previous generations.

Sanitary Circumstances

Throughout the year the pressure of work on the staff of the department increased. The total number of inspections recorded rose by over a thousand—an increase of over 25%.

Inspections concerned with general complaints, housing, meat inspection were all greatly increased but as in 1960 there was a considerable increase in the number of visits concerned with drainage and sewerage. Much of this work is a survey of existing conditions in villages it is proposed to sewer and is detailed in context. It forms an essential part of all proposals submitted to the appropriate Ministry for approval and loan sanction. As the provision of this amenity becomes an immediate proposition for more and more villages, it can be seen that this work is not likely to diminish within the near future.

The year saw the completion of the sewerage of Meldreth and the commencement of the scheme in Sawston and Pampisford. Governmental approval was also given to the schemes for Bassingbourn and Kneesworth, Balsham and Litlington. Should Government approval continue to be forthcoming and financial restrictions do not become too restraining, before many more years elapse some three-quarters of the population of the area should be in a position to connect their houses to a main sewer.

It is with regret that it is reported that only 49 houses were built by the Council during the year but there is no doubt that any local authority is at a great disadvantage, hedged in by financial restrictions and cumbersome statutory procedure, when it has to compete with private developers for available land and labour. However, by constructing a majority of bungalows the council was able to deploy its limited resources to best advantage. It was possible to re-house some tenants—often old people—from under-occupied council houses and thus make larger accommodation available for urgent housing applicants.

This problem of the under-occupied house is one of considerable importance to every local authority. It has been said by several acknowledged experts on housing that if the tenants of under-occupied houses could be rehoused in premises appropriate to their needs, the housing problems throughout the country could be solved overnight. However, the respect which councils have for their tenants wishes and sentimental attachments—a quality for which local authorities rarely receive credit—permits the application of this easy solution only in relatively few cases.

This same respect for the rights and wishes of the individual retards many authorities from carrying their slum clearance programme to a tidy statistical conclusion. In many cases if one were to use statutory powers and forcibly evict old people from even the most insanitary slums, it would be a sure way to speed up their deterioration and decay in spite of re-housing in modern accommodation with all amenities. An essential factor is the old person's willingness and desire to be re-housed followed up by the provision of adequate support when the re-housing is carried out. One has only to look at the success of the council's old people's housing units in Sawston and Linton to see how well old people can prosper under suitable conditions and with adequate support and supervision.

1961 has been a busy year for the staff of the public health department but I have nothing but unqualified praise for the way in which the inspectors have coped with the increasing demands of a progressive expanding community.

Once again I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the council for the interest that they continue to show in the work of the department and the encouragement they have given throughout the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES DRUMMOND.

August, 1962.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations)

LIVE BIRTHS								Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	255	218	473
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	10	20
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	265	228	493
Birth rate per thousand estimated population								..	..	16.5
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.07)								..	..	17.7
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)								..	..	17.4
STILL BIRTHS								Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	5	9
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	5	9
Rate per thousand live and still births								..	..	17.9
Rate per thousand live and still births (England and Wales)								..	..	18.7
DEATHS								Male	Female	Total
								184	169	353
Death rate per thousand estimated population								..	..	11.8
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.83)								..	..	9.8
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)								..	..	12.0
INFANT MORTALITY. (Deaths of infants under one year of age.)								Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8 (6)	5 (3)	13 (9)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1 (1)	1 (1)
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8 (6)	6 (4)	14 (10)
(Deaths of infants under four weeks and under one week of age are shown in brackets.)										
Infant mortality rate. (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)								..	..	28.4
Infant mortality rate. (England and Wales)								..	..	21.4
Neonatal mortality rate. (Infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births)								..	..	20.3
Early neonatal mortality rate. (Infant deaths under one week per thousand live births)								..	..	16.2
Perinatal mortality rate. (Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per thousand live and still births)								..	..	33.9
Legitimate infant mortality rate per thousand legitimate live births								..	..	27.5
Illegitimate infant mortality rate per thousand illegitimate live births								..	..	50.0
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births								..	..	4.1%
Maternal deaths (deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)								..	..	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per thousand live and still births								..	..	Nil
Deaths from cancer (all ages)								..	..	53
Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages)								..	..	Nil
Deaths from whooping cough								..	..	Nil
Deaths from measles								..	..	Nil
Deaths from pneumonia								..	..	16
Deaths from influenza								..	..	1
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)								..	..	Nil

CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
*Birth Rate	17.6	15.0	18.8	15.4	16.3	16.8	18.0	18.0	18.1	19.9	16.5
*Death Rate	14.3	11.6	11.5	12.6	11.8	12.7	11.3	11.4	12.0	11.6	11.8
Infant Mortality Rate	30.4	5.1	10.0	30.5	19.8	12.8	21.7	19.5	9.8	12.3	28.4
	(14)	(2)	(5)	(13)	(9)	(6)	(11)	(10)	(5)	(7)	(14)

* The above rates are uncorrected. The figures in brackets are the number of infant deaths in each year.

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS

								<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	6	14
1 and under 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
2 and under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
5 and under 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	—	2
15 and under 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
25 and under 35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	4
35 and under 45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	—	5
45 and under 55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	10	16
55 and under 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	24	56
65 and under 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44	32	76
75 and over ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	85	93	178
Totals ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	184	169	353

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICE FOR THE AREA

Medical Officer of Health

“ The Cambridgeshire United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Order 1951 ” provided for the appointment of a medical officer of health to the Chesterton, Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Councils. Under present arrangements this officer is also appointed deputy county and school medical officer to the Cambridgeshire County Council.

Public Health Inspectors

Mr. Hoyle continues as Senior Public Health Inspector assisted by Mr. Cocks and Mr. Allston.

Laboratory Facilities

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertake bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water supplies, and all necessary examination in cases of infectious disease.

Hospitals

There are no General Hospitals situated in the area. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are sent to the Cambridge City Isolation Hospital. The old Poor Law Institution at Linton is now shared between the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board and the Cambridgeshire County Council; the former having the use of eighty beds for the chronic sick, the latter 95 beds for use under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASE) REGULATIONS 1953

Under these Regulations a special provision is made to facilitate the investigation and control of outbreaks of ‘ Food Poisoning ’ (which includes typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, or other salmonella infection, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning) in that (a) the existing provisions regarding the prevention of a person suffering from food poisoning infection from continuing in or entering into an occupation connected with the preparation and handling of food or drink are now extended to include ‘ carriers ’ of food poisoning infections, (b) local authorities may authorise their medical officer of health to issue on their behalf notices where required to effect (a) immediately if he thinks it necessary and then report such action to his authority as soon as possible.

Such authority has been given to the medical officer of health but has not so far had occasion to be used.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1961
NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS, 1961

Age in years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles	Dysentery	Meningococcal Infection	Totals
			Paralytic	Non-Paralytic				
Under 1 year	—	3	—	—	10	—	—	13
1 year—	—	7	—	—	26	—	—	33
2 years—	1	4	—	—	39	—	—	44
3 years—	2	7	—	—	42	—	—	51
4 years—	2	15	—	—	68	—	—	85
5—9 years	11	54	—	—	219	2	—	286
10—14 years	1	15	—	—	41	1	—	58
15—24 years	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	4
25 and over	—	4	—	—	5	1	—	10
Totals	18	110	—	—	452	4	—	584
1960 Totals	63	36	—	—	114	11	—	224

Age in years	Acute Pneumonia	Acute Encephalitis	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Totals
Under 5 years	—	—	—	1	—	1
5—14 years	1	—	—	1	—	2
15—44 years	2	—	1	1	2	6
45—64 years	1	—	—	2	—	3
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	—	1	5	2	12
1960 Totals	7	1	3	11	—	22

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year three cases were notified for the first time. Six respiratory cases and one non-respiratory case previously notified elsewhere were transferred to the district. However on balance at the end of the year there were five fewer cases on the register.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. Number of Cases on Register at commencement of year	29	18	5	3	34	21
2. Number of Cases notified for first time during year under Regulations	2	1	—	—	2	1
3. Cases restored to Register	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Cases added to Register otherwise than by notification under Regulations:—						
(a) Transferred from other Districts	4	2	—	1	4	3
(b) From Death Returns	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Number of Cases removed from Register	4	7	4	—	8	7
6. Number of cases remaining on Register at end of year	31	14	1	4	32	18

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION

RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS CASES ON REGISTER 31.12.61

AGE GROUP	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL		GRAND TOTAL
	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	
0—15	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
15—25	3	—	3	1	6	1	7
25—35	6	—	3	1	9	1	10
35—45	7	—	6	1	13	1	14
45—55	6	1	2	—	8	1	9
55—65	4	—	—	—	4	—	4
65 and over	3	—	—	1	3	1	4
TOTALS	31	1	14	4	45	5	50

National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47

No action was necessary during the year under this section.

National Assistance Act 1948, Section 50

No burials were effected under the provisions of this section.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1961

This new act is the first legislation solely concerned with public health since 1936. The Public Health Act, 1936, still remains the principal act and the new 1961 Act introduces new powers. Many of its provisions are taken from Private Acts where local authorities, finding the general legislation inadequate for their requirements, promoted their own Acts of Parliament to secure new and wider powers. These provisions, having been proved in practice in particular, are now applied nationally.

The Act consists of 86 sections and 5 schedules and, except for a few clauses, came into operation on the 3rd October, 1961. The provisions which are of greatest importance to the Council can be summarised as follows:—

- (a) Local Building Byelaws are to be superseded by Building Regulations made by the Minister and applying nationally.
- (b) Where a council resolves to construct a sewer in a highway and declares at the same time that the sewer will materially increase the value of the premises fronting the street, they can recover from owners a contribution to the cost.
- (c) Summary powers are given to the Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Inspector to examine drains and require the remedying of defects and many new powers are given to local authorities relating to drains and closets.
- (d) Powers to deal with defective premises, dangerous buildings, ruinous and dilapidated buildings, neglected sites, filthy and verminous premises are extended.
- (e) New powers concerned with the prevention and notification of disease are introduced including provision for the payment of compensation to a person who is excluded from work on the request of the Medical Officer of Health.
- (f) Additional powers are given concerning streets and public places including the provision of litter bins by county, district or parish councils.
- (g) The control of trade effluents is extended.
- (h) Power is given to authorities to deal with such things as pigeons and to make byelaws concerning pleasure boats, fairs and hairdressers.

REPORT
OF THE
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR

Summary of Visits and Inspections recorded during the year:—

TOTAL INSPECTIONS RECORDED	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,976
Complaints Investigated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	240
General re-inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	103
Housing:										
General Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	237
Re-inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	602
Infectious Diseases:										
General Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	130
Number of Premises Disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Verminous Premises and Persons:										
Premises Disinfested	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Water Supply:										
Inspections and Investigations, including survey	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	173
Visits re. Water Sampling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	172
Visits re. Chlorination Tests	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Milk and Dairies:										
Inspections of Dairies and Milk Stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Milk Distributors	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Visits re. Milk Sampling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Food and Drugs Act:										
Inspection of Food	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	605
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Catering Establishments	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45
Ice-Cream premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Other Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	130
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
Food Conveying Vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Shops Act Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Factories Act:										
Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Atmospheric Pollution	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Pet Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	96
Public Cleansing, including Depot Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	309
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	823
Swimming Pool Inspection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
River Pollution Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Sewage Disposal, including Surveys	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	468
Petroleum Storage Regulations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Miscellaneous Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	121

HOUSING

Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

Houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	7
Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
Houses rendered reasonably fit after informal action	185

Proceedings under Housing Act 1957

Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6
Houses demolished due to formal action:	
(a) By owners	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
Houses demolished as a result of informal action	8
Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made (Section 17)	20
Undertakings in respect of houses represented as Unfit (Section 16):	
(a) Undertakings given by owners to make fit	Nil
(b) Undertakings given by owners not to use for human habitation	10
Buildings in respect of part of which Closing Orders were made (Section 18)	Nil
Houses made fit and Closing Orders or Undertakings cancelled	7
New cases of overcrowding	Nil
Overcrowding cases abated	Nil

Housing Progress during the year ending 31.3.62

Bungalows erected by the Council	37
Houses erected by the Council	12
Dwellings erected by private enterprise	155
Total number of dwellings erected by the Council since 1945	1,802

Unfit dwellings have been further reduced during the year, with the closure or demolition of 44 premises. Since the 1st January, 1955, when legislation became operative, and a drive against unfit dwellings was commenced, 213 dwellings have been either closed or demolished.

Not all, however, have remained closed; in some cases dwellings have eventually been made fit and their closures cancelled. Seven such properties have been made fit in 1961. To this may be added 185 dwellings which the department has been instrumental in improving, and a further 7 dwellings, where works were effected after the service of formal notices.

The Architect reports that 76 applications for Standard Improvement Grants and 17 for Discretionary Improvement Grants have been approved.

The number of houses erected during the year has fallen a little, to 155 privately built and 49 built by the Council. This latter figure does not, however, reflect Council policy, but rather that of the Ministry.

In addition Council is actively committed to a policy of comprehensive improvement of their older Council houses as over 900 of the present total of 2,721 dwellings were built before 1945. The Council's Architect has recently reported the completion of major improvements to 138 dwellings and a further 64 properties are in course of being modernised.

It is apparent that the building labour force in the area is more than fully employed.

Only five families are at present living in ex-armed forces' hutments and with the completion of a few more Council houses the last hutment should be vacated.

Moveable Dwellings

The implementation of the Control of Caravan Sites and Development Act has necessitated the relicensing of all caravan sites and new site licences have embodied Conditions as based on the Model Code. Compliance with the "Conditions" by licencees is generally slow and in some cases the licencee has reduced the number of caravans on a site to obviate the necessity of having to comply with more comprehensive requirements. The Register shows that 173 caravans occupy 91 licensed sites.

WATER SUPPLIES

The transfer of Council's Water Undertaking to that of the Cambridge & University Town Waterworks Company has been resisted as far as possible, but at the time of reporting, the Minister has indicated his intention to transfer the Undertaking, together with those of St. Ives Borough, Ramsey U.D.C., Chesterton R.D.C., Part of St. Ives R.D.C., Chesterton & St. Ives Joint Water Board and Ramsey & St. Ives Joint Water Board. The transfer takes effect from 1st April, 1963.

It is unfortunate that the uncertainty prevailing in connexion with the possible transfer has prevented certain short extensions of water mains from being carried out. However, works to improve the water supply to parts of the Eastern Area where pressure is poor, is still proceeding and a new 7 inch diameter main is being laid from Linton to Shudy Camps. The improvement also includes the provision of a low level reservoir and booster pump at Linton, and an elevated storage tank at Shudy Camps.

Unfortunately the staff shortage in the public health department has prevented a more vigorous policy being adopted towards landlords who have not yet laid on a wholesome supply of piped water to their properties in the villages which have more recently been supplied with piped water.

Routine chemical and bacteriological examinations of samples from the boreholes and pipe lines have shown that the usual high standard of supply has been maintained. A token chlorination is given to all borehole water supplies and checks are made from time to time to assess the chlorine or chloramine residual in the piped supplies.

Prompt action by the public health department, under the Water Pollution Byelaws, by ordering the removal of approximately 100 cubic yds. of chemical waste which had been dumped near a borehole, prevented possible contamination of the water supply.

RESULTS OF WATER SUPPLY SAMPLES

Type of Supply	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Public Piped supplies	109	2
Private supplies	12	51

SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public swimming baths in the district but the rivers Cam and Granta are a source of attraction to young and old alike. Some samples of river water have been submitted for bacterial examination and they showed considerable bacterial content. This is only to be expected where a river flows through farm land and meanders through villages picking up various effluents en route.

Some improvement may be expected with the advent of the new sewage disposal works at Sawston but in the absence of a bacterial standard being defined for a " fit " river water, one can only discourage swimming in stretches of water subject to known sources of high bacterial contamination.

Gamlingay County School still remains the only school in the rural district with a swimming bath. Much use is made of the bath by other schools and the water is both filtered and chlorinated.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

Particulars of Population and Numbers of Dwelling Houses supplied from Public Water Mains:—

Parish	Acreage	Pop- ulation Census 1951	Number of dwellings (Rate Books) as at 31/3/62	Number of dwellings supplied as at 31/3/62	No. of dwellings supplied from Coun- cil st'dpipes	Source of Water Supply and quantity pumped 31/3/62
Sawston	1,898	2,133	1,112	1,094	4	Sawston bore (Chalk water) 39,582,000 gallons per year
Balsham	4,550	662	254	244	1	Linton bore (Chalk water) 84,108,000 gallons per year.
Bartlow	377	73	27	27		
Carlton	2,415	266	56	53		
Castle Camps ..	3,184	509	195	192		
Great Abington	1,588	503	203	199		
Hildersham ..	1,511	148	67	60		
Horseheath ..	1,922	328	136	131		
Linton	3,817	1,608	671	656		
Little Abington ..	1,309	280	132	127	2	
Shudy Camps ..	2,362	240	91	89		
Weston Colville	3,235	334	133	114		
West Wickham	2,931	327	120	114	1	
West Wratting	3,543	424	145	136		
Abington Pigotts	1,237	142	45	45		Croydon bore (Lower greensand water) and Dotterel bore (Chalk water) 324,963,000 gallons per year
Arrington	1,407	648	125	123		
Babraham	2,387	226	111	2		
Barrington	2,282	497	205	185		
Bassingbourn ..	3,204	2,554	666 (184)	589		
Croydon	2,734	223	77	74		
Duxford	3,239	1,469	395	326		
Fowlmere	2,272	769	186	153		
Foxton	1,752	567	241	207		
Gamlingay	4,460	1,575	580	533		
Guilden Morden	2,599	552	220	202		
Hatley	2,200	150	55	52		
Hinxton	1,564	274	100	77		
Ickleton	2,700	613	227	146		
Kneesworth ..	879	133	34	18		
Litlington	2,172	778	241	226		
Little Gransden	1,920	280	88	88		
Longstowe	1,544	240	66	61		
Melbourn	4,480	1,408	674	601		
Meldreth	2,513	654	321	304		
Orwell	2,083	525	224	221		
Pampisford	1,607	340	109	79		
Shepreth	1,318	438	177	152		
Shingay cum Wendy	1,791	119	44	44		
Steeple Morden ..	3,846	642	249	211		
Tadlow	1,743	107	32	29		
Thriplow	2,501	386	254 (110)	81		
Whaddon	1,515	196	142 (58)	140		
Wimpole	2,468	239	63	52		
Whittlesford ..	1,976	809	381 (31)	239		
Great Eversden ..	1,400	175	60	56		Chesterton & St. Ives Joint Water Board (Lower greensand water) 6,919,000 gallons per year.
Kingston	1,907	158	55	54		
Little Eversden ..	790	236	122	116		
Great Chishill ..	2,542	332	118	117		Saffron Walden R.D.C. (Chalk water) 5,871,000 gallons per year.
Heydon	1,425	151	63	61		
Little Chishill ..	1,216	82	30	19		

Figures in brackets are included in the main figure and represent R.A.F. dwellings.

REPRESENTATIVES RESULTS OF WATER ANALYSES FROM PUBLIC SUPPLIES

Examination	Linton Bore. Chalk Water	Sawston Bore. Chalk Water	Croydon Bore. Lower Greensand Water (after iron removal)	Fowlmere Dottrell Hall Bore. Chalk Water	Chesterton & St. Ives Joint Water Board. Lower Greensand Water (after iron removal)	Saffron Walden R.D.C. Chalk Water	Lee Valley Water Co. Chalk Water
Physical Characteristics	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very slight deposit, somewhat turbid, odourless	Good	Very slight deposit otherwise good
Reaction (pH value)	7.2	7.2	7.4	7.1	7.4	7.1	7.1
Parts per 100,000							
Chloride	2.05	2.45	3.1	2.75	7.6	1.8	2.2
Ammonia (Free & Saline) ..	0.0120	0.0024	0.0772	absent	0.0824	absent	absent
Ammonia (Albuminoid) ..	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	absent	0.0004	0.0022	0.0048
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37°C	0.0313	0.0366	0.0280	0.0264	0.0299	0.0297	0.0330
Nitrates (Expressed as Nitrogen)	0.85	0.80	absent	0.85	absent	0.60	0.60
Nitrites	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Poisonous Metals	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Total Hardness	24.9	27.9	16.8	24.4	23.0	26.6	30.8
Microscopical Examination of deposit	none	none	none	none	mainly mineral matter	none	mainly mineral matter
Bacteriological Examination							
Coliform organisms in 100 mls.	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Number of micro-organisms per ml at 37°C	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Number of micro-organisms per ml at 21°C	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The sewerage of Meldreth Parish was completed at the year's end, the sewage being dealt with at the Melbourn sewage works.

Sawston and Pampisford sewerage scheme was commenced and is proceeding satisfactorily. This £300,000 project should be in operation in 1963.

The Council made application to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval to the sewerage of Bassingbourn and Kneesworth, and also Balsham Parishes. A Ministry investigation was held in July and at the time of writing this report approvals have been received. The Ministry have also approved the sewerage of Litlington Parish.

The Council's engineering consultants have formulated sewerage schemes for a further number of villages, and there is a likelihood of even more vigorous progress being made. Plans for sewerage Duxford, Whittlesford, Foxton, Shepreth, Ickleton and Hinxton villages are well advanced.

The erection of private houses with independent septic tanks or cesspool drainage in areas where the subsoil is impermeable often places a considerable financial burden on the possibly unsuspecting householders, by reason of the continual need to empty the sewage tanks. On the other hand the attempts by the householders to connect the drainage systems to nearby ditches usually result in complaints which may necessitate subsequent action by the public health department. As it is not possible or even desirable to channel all house building to those villages where main sewerage is available, the Council have considered the problem and have agreed in principle to taking over and operating sewage disposal plants constructed at the site developers expense, where such plants deal with groups of not less than about 20 dwellings.

The investigation of drainage complaints; the testing of new drainage systems to existing properties, and inspections in connexion with proposed private drainage schemes accounts for a fair proportion of the inspectors' time and 823 visits were thus recorded. Further to this may be added 468 visits in connexion with surveys to collate information on drainage in parishes which the Council intends to seek Ministry approval to sewer.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The fortnightly collection of domestic refuse throughout the district has been maintained, although workmen for this type of work are not easily recruited.

The Council considered that there was a need in the larger villages for a weekly collection of refuse, and a further vehicle has been placed on order. At present three vehicles of 16/18 cu. yd. capacity, and a smaller vehicle of 10 cu. yd. capacity, are employed.

Controlled tipping is employed as far as labour and costs permit, but the gravel and chalk pits used for this purpose are growing fewer.

Tip fires have occurred, and usually coincide with the school childrens' holidays. However, providing no nuisance or danger is caused it greatly reduces the bulk of the refuse which has a high combustible content.

Collection and disposal statistics for year ending 31/3/62

Estimated number of clearances from properties	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	271,000
Number of loads	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,302
Estimated tonnage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,396
Total mileage travelled	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36,210

Litter Bins

In an endeavour to make people litter conscious, the Council has provided some 70 litter baskets in various parishes. These are emptied as often as may be necessary, and in any case at the same time as the parish domestic refuse collection is made.

Cesspool Emptying Service

Despite the progress in the sewerage of the villages, the demand for this service is greater than ever, and many orders are lost by failure to deal promptly with them. The expansion of private building and the modernisation of sanitary arrangements in existing properties in unsewered parishes, plus the low cost of the service, must account for the increasing demand.

The charges remain the same as when the service was commenced in 1955.

Private properties 35/- per first load, with subsequent loads at 15/-.

Business premises £2 per first load, with subsequent loads at £1.

One 800 gallon capacity vehicle with two men is employed.

There is a reluctance on the part of farmers, who do not look upon cesspool contents as an agricultural manure, to permit the disposal of tanker contents on their land, and a sustained effort is needed to find adequate disposal points.

The following summarises the year's works:

Private Work		Council Work		Total Mileage
Cesspools	Loads	Cesspools	Loads	
477	565	453	781	12,405

Nightsoil Collection

A private contractor is employed to empty pails in one of the larger parishes.

PEST DESTRUCTION

The supervision of rat destruction on Council properties is not the responsibility of any one department. The engineer is concerned with rat destruction in sewers and on sewage works; the architect's department deals with infestation in Council houses and land, and the public health department with pest destruction at the refuse tips. No rat destruction service is yet afforded to private householders, but advice is given on destruction methods. The systematic treatment of the refuse tips with insecticide is most essential, and it is only by rigorous treatment that the tips have been kept fairly free from flies, crickets, etc.

Two insect infested houses have been fumigated during the year.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND FOOD POISONING

A few outbreaks of food poisoning, dysentery and undulant fever occurred and the department was concerned with preventing the spread of infection and seeking the cause. The Public Health Laboratory Service were most helpful in examination of specimens for bacteriological investigation, including nearly 200 quarter milk samples from a dairy herd. Subsequently the direct cause of the undulant fever was ascertained, and the milk from the herd was directed for heat treatment.

Scarlet fever accounted mainly for the remainder of the investigations and records show that 130 visits for the control of diseases were made.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Few complaints of atmospheric pollution have been received. One case necessitated formal action and a notice was served under Section 16 of the Clean Air Act, in respect of a nuisance caused by the burning of a rubber dump.

Two notices of intention to install furnaces in factories were received and in respect of two applications for "prior approval" of furnaces the observations of the National Fuel Efficiency Service were sought. The applications were subsequently approved.

No measuring gauges are, as yet, installed in the rural district's area to assess the amount of atmospheric pollution.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT

It might be said that sound becomes a noise when it is disturbing or vexatious to the hearer. Several complaints have been investigated, two of which were easily remedied as they arose from "loud speakers" attached to food purveying vehicles. Where as in another complaint the noise arose from the operation of an industrial plant the 'cure' is not so apparent. However, certain structural measures were requested which resulted in noise reduction. Adequate sound insulation is a facet of noise control which must take greater prominence in the construction of future building, if noise control is to be tackled from a fundamental aspect.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31.12.61

This year saw the biggest kill in the three privately owned slaughterhouses of any year since meat de-control in 1954, with a throughput of 47,767 carcasses. Of these 40,167 were inspected, and this had involved as it has done in previous years, a considerable incursion into the inspectors' time outside normal working hours and including Saturday afternoons and Sundays. A total of 605 visits for meat inspection purposes are recorded.

The Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries & Food are holding discussions with various bodies, including the Rural District Councils Association, with a view to bringing in compulsory 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered, together with a meat marking scheme, i.e., meat to be marked after being passed fit, and with a realistic recompense to local authorities to off-set the cost of maintaining a meat inspection service, especially where the bulk of carcasses inspected is for consumption outside the district, as it is in South Cambridgeshire Rural District.

**TOTALS OF MEAT INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN THE THREE PRIVATELY OWNED
SLAUGHTERHOUSES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 1961**

(The figures in brackets are the annual figures for the year 1960)

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	1,181	44	18	8,517	38,007	—
Number inspected 84.0%	1123	44	18	6,988	31,994	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	—	35	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	229	9	—	32	2,921	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	20.5% (19.7%)	20.5% (15.5%)	— —	0.46% (1.2%)	9.2% (10.0%)	— —
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	810	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	— (0.67%)	— —	— —	— —	2.5% (3.2%)	— —
CYSTICERCOSIS						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	8 (10)	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	8 (10)	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Generalised and totally con- demned	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
NUMBER OF ORGANS OR PARTS CONDEMNED—ALL DISEASES*						
Heads	7	—	—	—	809	—
Lungs	11	—	—	1	2,269	—
Hearts	4	—	—	—	482	—
Livers	209	8	—	31	1,142	—
Spleens	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diaphragms	6	—	—	—	—	—
Kidney	—	—	—	—	20	—
Stomachs	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mesenteries	—	—	—	—	16	—
Other parts	100 lbs	10 lbs.	—	—	887 lbs.	—

*These figures do not include instances where whole carcasses and all organs were condemned.

The percentage of carcasses found to be diseased shows a reduction on the previous years' figures, with the exception of minor infections of cattle, which were mostly liver infections.

Tuberculosis was not found in any beef carcasses, which in itself is a tribute to the Government's scheme for eradication of tuberculosis in cattle. Unfortunately 2.5% tubercular infection in pigs is not so favourable. This was mainly due to avian type tubercle. The department liaises with the Ministry's Divisionary Veterinary officer in investigating the source of this infection.

Use is made of the Public Health Laboratory Service and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Veterinary Investigation Centre, when bacteriological checks of pathological specimens are required.

Condemned meat is despatched from the three slaughterhouses in conformity with the Meat Staining and Sterilizing Regulations and its control is not difficult as it usually ends up at the animal by-products factory in the district. The amount of meat and offals rejected as unfit was 14 tons.

It will be recalled that the appointed day for the rural district when the Hygiene & Cruelty Regulations apply, is the 1st January, 1963. None of the existing slaughterhouses fully comply with the Regulations, and they will, therefore, not be licensed beyond 31.12.62. However, each of the slaughterhouse occupiers has elected to rebuild his premises, and one was completed at the beginning of 1962.

Milk Supply

All milk sold in the rural district is from cows which have passed the tuberculin test and the majority of the milk sold is pasteurised. The need for pasteurisation of all milk was high-lighted by an outbreak of *Brucella abortus* in a herd from which farm bottled milk was produced and from which cases of undulant fever resulted.

Complaints of dirty and cracked milk bottles have been investigated and several milk bottlers and distributors were subsequently warned that a recurrence would necessitate the Council instituting legal proceedings.

Milk production and adequacy of farm buildings and equipment connected therewith is under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food and it is reported that there are 46 milk producers in the rural district.

The Food & Drug Authority which in this area is The County Council, attend to the licensing with regard to pasteurisation and distribution of designated milk.

The District Council's records show that there are 10 licensed distributors established in the district and 2 registered dairies.

One distributor's attention was drawn to the illegal practice of leaving crates of milk on the roadside pending final delivery to the consumer.

Milk sampling has been confined to the control of *Brucella abortus* in a particular dairy herd.

Ice-Cream

Temperature checks on several ice-cream conservators in retailers' premises were found to be satisfactory.

No ice-cream is manufactured in the district and the majority of ice-cream is pre-wrapped.

Eleven samples obtained were found to be bacteriologically satisfactory. A total of 133 premises are now licensed for the sale of ice-cream and one application was refused, having regard to the type of business carried on at the premises.

Mobile ice-cream vans were generally satisfactory, excepting in one case where the name and address of the dealer was not conspicuously displayed.

Food Shops, Cafes, Factory Canteens and Food Conveying Vehicles

Constant attention and routine inspection is most necessary if a good standard of cleanliness is to be maintained in food premises and amongst food handlers, and although 244 visits and revisits are recorded and 40 informal notices issued, there still remain many premises which have not been inspected during the year. The reason is obvious when one considers the growth of work in the public health department.

A new Code of Practice governing poultry dressing and packing adds to those already produced jointly, for the guidance of the food industry, by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food and the Ministry of Health.

The department is not aware, however, of any establishment in the rural district to which the Code can, at the moment, be related.

Bakehouses

Two premises have been improved and a further bakehouse requires improvement. All the bakeries in the district are small in character and the number on register remains at 14.

Licensed Premises

Improvements to several public houses have been required and a total of 34 visits made. There still remain a few premises out of a total of 111 in the district which are below a reasonable standard. Improvements are recorded in six premises and mainly pertain to sanitary accommodation and glass washing facilities.

Food Premises Registered under Sec. 16, Food and Drug Act 1955

The following premises are registered under the Section:

Storage and sale of ice-cream	133
Manufacture of sausages and other preserved foods	15
Fish frying	3

Routine visits to these premises have been few but premises are inspected prior to registration. A further 9 premises were approved for ice-cream sale. One sausage manufactory required improvement and new equipment was provided.

Food Conveying Vehicles

Spot checks to 12 food vehicles have resulted, in some cases, to attention being drawn to the requirement whereby the name and address of the operator must be conspicuously displayed on the vehicle. In three instances adequate hand washing facilities were lacking.

Food Inspection

A number of complaints relating to food presumed to be unfit were investigated. Samples were submitted to both the public analyst and the public health laboratory service. The over liberal use of lubricating oil on a dough mixing machine resulted in contaminated bread and the baker was given a formal warning. Another firm withdrew from the market a certain brand of condiment after being advised that it was not of the quality demanded. Other products found unfit were mainly of the canned variety.

SHOPS ACT 1950

The administration of the Act is divided between the County Council and the District Council. Three shops have been provided with better staff sanitary accommodation. Heating and ventilation have been satisfactory in all premises visited.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959

The inspection of factories has been limited due to staff shortage, but the number of visits showed an increase on those of the preceeding year. With the loss of the administration of fire escape requirements in factories, duties under the Act are restricted to those mainly concerned with sanitary accommodation where the factories employ mechanical power and to more detailed matters where no mechanical power is used. However, the supervision of factory canteens and their compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations are matters of some importance where anything short of the highest standard could well adversely affect large numbers of people simultaneously.

The number of factories with private water supplies is dwindling, and only a few now hold certificates of wholesomeness of supply, as required under the Act.

Although no routine visits have been made in connexion with outworkers, no contraventions have been reported. All the 39 outworkers on register are engaged in making or repairing wearing apparel.

Three factories are listed under the Alkali Act 1906 and their supervision is one for the Alkali Inspectorate of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The following table summarises the year's work under the Factories Acts.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	10	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	83	35	5	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	11	5	3	—
TOTAL	104	40	8	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	4	3	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	1	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	8	4	—	3	—

OFFENSIVE TRADES

Byelaws to control offensive trades in the parishes of Duxford, Sawston and Pampisford, are now in force. Copies of the byelaws have been sent to the four existing factories concerned, and advice given on implementing the byelaws.

The County Council have licensed 8 establishments in the rural district under the Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order 1957. The Order requires the efficient boiling of waste foods for feeding to animals, and is a necessary adjunct in the control of the spread of infection in food animals.

There are no licensed knackers yards in the district.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

There are no licences in force permitting the sale of pet animals.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1958

Slaughtermen are licensed for periods not exceeding 12 months, and attached conditions restrict the licensee to specific types of animals, and to certain types of stunning instruments. No licence in force permits horse slaughtering. The records show that 19 licences have been issued during the year. No contraventions of the Act have been found.

PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS

Inspections in connexion with storage of petroleum number 35. Seven new installations were approved during the year and as is usual the tanks were air tested. Due to staffing difficulties no testing of existing storage tanks has yet been undertaken.

The renewal of 4 × 12,000 gallon tanks at a distribution depot required certification that the existing tanks were free from inflammable vapour before being removed from the site, and in this I am indebted to the Weights and Measures Inspector of Cambridge City for the loan of an explosimeter.

The licences in force permitting petroleum storage, number 160 and cover a total storage exceeding 1,030,000 gallons.

